

LEV GLEASON, PUBLISHER POWARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS



IN THIS

"BLACK DIAMOND MEETS BILLY THE KID IN THE LINCOLN COUNTY WAR"

AND

"THE DEATH OF BILLY THE KID"



While They Last

IN U. S. ARMY WAR SURPLUS CAMPING GEAR

You can be the most enviad kid in your neighborhood with this real U.S. Army Surplus equipment. The "exact" equipment used by thousands of G.L's, all over the world in the last war. They're just "super" for that next camping trip, hike, her world in the lost wal, they rejust "super" for that next camping Irip, hike, housing or fishing. You'll be proud to display and wear Ihem: Wotch how your friends eyes "pop" when they hear haw lillle this authentic equipment costs. Don't delay, send in your order today! Use the coupon shown below.

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you get everything MU. 1. Muselle Bog

with shoulder stiop plus! (ser illustration)

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35€ COVERALL RAIN HOOD

Extro hundy and compact Sold eliowhere for \$1.00 alone.

SIGNALING MIRROR S. Unbreokable. S. For fun ourdoors, Floshes visible for 10 miles, Has cross complete directions on one side. Reverse side is regular camp min 35c



25c POST





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Fired non

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ier Inded FREE

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SUSTENANCE VEST

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PAID

NEW, adjustable to fit all sites, young boy to big man. Has 16 packets (including Pistal Molster) but MORE than 16 users. Swell as a gift for dad, and wonderfut as a Fishing and Carryall Yest. Cost the Air Carps over \$10 to make.

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Sieep 2 persons). ARMY 10 GALLON

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Cúttingsville 15, Vt.i CHAS. McMANUS



LIMITED MAIL COUPON TODAY! QUANTITIES!

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I enclose (cash or money liems checked below:	ordere positively na C	OD's). Send
B My: The Femous Field	D. X. MID/IV Ass	

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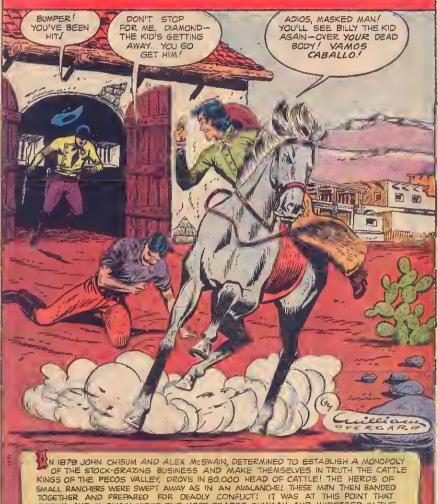
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City & Zone

MEETS BILLY THE KID IN LINCOLN COUNTY WAR!



CHISUM AND MCSWAIN HIRED THE MOST FEARED GUNMAN AND MURDERER IN THE SOUTHWEST, BILLY THE KID! SO STARTED THE LINCOLN COUNTY WAR!





OF COURSE! THE ANTICHISUM FACTION IS STRONG
AMONG THE SMALLER
RANCHERS IN LINCOLN,
WHO CONCEIVE THEIR RIGHTS
HAVE BEEN TRAMPLED ON
BY THE KID!

IT'S NOW OR NEYER! THE KID'S POPULARITY GROWS EACH DAY! WE'VE GOT TO SETTLE HIM NOW! CALL YOUR POSSE!





































HOW ABOUT THIS, TURNER? YOU TAKE 25 OF THE BOYS AND WOODS AND FLANK THE KID'S GANG! BUMPER AND THE FAKE IT HERE!

THEKID GETS WISE HE'LL SLAUGHTER YOU! THE



BUT IF

GOOD WE'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE! IF IT LUCK DIAMOND! WORKS, THE WILL BE WORTH COME ON. MEN! IT! NOW GET GOING!



















FTHE 65 MEN THE KID LED INTO THE CANYON, ONLY 40
ESCAPED ALIVE! THE ODDS HAD CHANGED! ACROSS
THE PLAINS, THE TWO FORCES WENT, EACH WREAKING
VENGEANCE ON THE OTHER, PAYING OLD SCORES AND
GETTING EVEN WITH BITTER ENEMIES!







KID! HEAR

THAT! IT

SOUNDS



HATE TO

THINK WHAT

HE WILL-

HE'S

ADI05!

I'LL BE



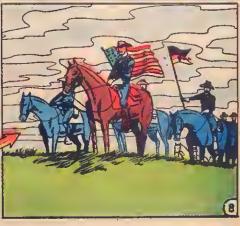
NO. I-

WE'VE WAITED



GOOD! THAT WILL BE CHI-























WE'VE BE-



























HE'LL JUST HAVE BUT-YOUTO GET AWAY
BUMPER! YOU'RE
LOSING BLOOD BY
THE GALLON!
HIMOHHHH



WELL, DOC, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU COULD THINK YOU COULD THINK YOU COULD THINK YOU COULD CHINK YOU COULD THINK YOU COULD THINK YOU FOUNT IMPOSTIBLE! HE'LL BE FINE!

WELL, DIAMOND, THE KID'S LOOSE AGAIN! ALL THE FIGHTING AND DYING HAS BEEN IN VAIN!

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT,
SHERIFF TURNER!
BRAVE MEN GAVETHER
LIVES ON BOTH SIDES TO
FIGHT FOR WHAT THEY
BELIEVED IN AND THE KID'S



WHEN A MAN DEFIES ONE LAW-HE MUST BE PREPARED TO DEFY ALL LAWS, EVEN THE LAW OF HUMAN LIFE! BY THE ROPE AND BULLET DE MOST OF THESE MEN WHO PERSIST IN TRYING TO BEAT THEIR JUDGMENT! SOME OF THEM ARE WITH APPARENT BRAVERY BUT IT IS A BRAVERY OF DESPERATION!



HOW TRUE BLACK DIAMOND'S WORDS ARE - BUT HAS HE SEEN THE LAST OF BILLY THE KID ? SEE CENTER SPREAD IN THIS ISSUE...









She Has Maving Eyes

nnd Hockings. Wondst-tzing dolly it your los muct SEMB NO MBMEY pintici, shees n beintilni, namz inhelinynhiy low with ordij to C.O.D. pine po

ONLY



Asthealle Flone Keybnard Lifetime Vieylite Bellows

Carefully. Taxed Brase Reeds

Simph to play, and fue to use, the TUNK-KING Swing Amendies will mete a way by 8 gist or adult the fife of any speak. The allipsatic necosition plays to the play 8 gist or adult the fife of any speak. The allipsatic necosition plays to the play of the speak of the fife of the speak of the fife of the speak of the first partners. It is a first play of the speak of the fifth of the speak of the fifth of the speak of the fifth of the speak of the

THE EIGHTING CLOWN Rry Statel Here's real fun, lets of ection, rent sport mith 2000000-counted, felly, onto it is proce-by big, knock, if four, it throug-ionic back of you for mild An that trading dumon-woulding partial—spacing portist. Licitors against a well it becomes a rapid agenti a woil i occent i incl penthing beg, Eilled as in izel-liver and Erniner, Indoors or out. Medi of izin beavy Jone Jesting Vinjilli, out: 25 Inhae Iill, nith agend valu Jos iasy Infinite. SENO ND MOREY. (C.O.D., jibr. pay parings. Realt with states

NOVELTY MART, Dept. 573 59 East 8th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

Gaellames: Please send soc the followings Esclosed fied:

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G. O. D. plus postage.

U Outlaw Target .. \$1.98 Accordion\$2.98

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Name... Address... ..Stale...



1.95 train legis Southern Hart Co., 120 C. Williams Street, S. St. Cheen of S. W.

Ugľý BLACKHEADS SECONDS



Biackhood-Remover

The amoniquity affection Vacutes exercise Elechands outsmailedly — WITHOUT equivalent those Rang to one with three floques. It exacts the electric transaction is exacted.

TRIAL COUPON

GALLES GROUNTS CO., Sept. 8-505
at Was fart Mr. See 19th Lt. Et v.
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New o onder animals from hyra-Otton-ollied Toy Bears. Delight-ful pata: Ecoryone easits them, Laboralorite aced thousands. Clean, olorless. Hase anywhere. Profesable, interesting. Write for

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Sand only one dollar les Muriet Stel-ford's great book, YOU CAN ANALYZE ANY HANDWRITING, Is will be recited to you postpold. Thousands of copies of this book have already been said. Not available now in stores or newsthoods—but youll, at once, for only \$1. Mail today with your anne and address fo:

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A Secretionally low print for such a SEC MOST WATCH and STOP WATCH in and ITHAS EVERYTHING!

FRANCE EYERTYMINDE.

Figor Those fundamen.

Fig of THARKEEPMII

Fig of Tharkeep

Perinse only 55-98 etc. 10% ten and parture. Lettariles gentot red or manay refunded if returned which to days.

ABIR N. ALBANY AVE. CHICAGO II, ILL

E GUY CON NEXT ISSUE BE THE WINNER OF: MAY

PRIZE - DELUXE SCHWINN BICYCLE

2nd PRIZE- COMPLETE FOOTBALL LINIFORM

3rd PRIZE-COMPLETE BASEBALL UNIFORM

4th PRIZE- REGULATION FOOTBALL

PRIZE - ROLLER SKATES 5th

6th PRIZE-TENNIS RACKET

7th PRIZE-BASEBALL GLOVE

8th PRIZE - STEEL CONSTRUCTION SET

9th PRIZE - MODEL AIRPLANE KIT

10th PRIZE ~ ELECTRIC MOTOR









GOOD NEWS, CHIEF!
DANGEROUS DAN
WAS HANGED! THE
NEWS JUST CAME
IN BY TELEGRAPH
FROM THE STATE
PRISON!

GOOD! NOW THERE'S NO CHANCE OF HIS ESCAPING! HE WAS RUINING OUR BUSINESS WITH HIS HOLDUPS!



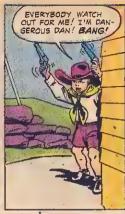
THE MAN WHO
CAPTURED DAN
GEROUS DAN
WILL BE HERE
SOON TO COLLECT

THAT'S \$500 WE'LL BE GLAD TO PAY OUT!













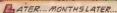












SO BAILEY FINALLY COMPLETED HIS RAILROAD! THE FIRST TRIP WILL BE AFTERNOON! I'LL HAVE TO COLLECT MY FIRST DIVIDEND!



THANK YOU, FOLKS! I INVESTED HIS HARD-EARNED CASH INTO THIS RAILROAD WAS HERE TO SHARE IN THE FESTIVITIES.



IVE MILES OUT OF TOWN ...

I WONDER WHAT'S HOLDING PASSED HERE AN HOUR AGO!



AND HERE'S WHAT'S HOLDING UP THE TRAIN, TWO MILES FROM WHERE PANGEROUS DAN IMPATIENTLY WAITS ...























SO YOU'RE MIKE LANG THE GREAT RAILROAD DETECTIVE! WELL, WE'RE MIGHTY GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE! SURE HOPE YOU CAN CATCH THOSE BLASTED CROOKS! ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS DAN!



APTER SHAVING HIS MUSTACHE AND SIDEBURNS - AND WITH LANG'S PAPERS, DAN DID ANOTHER IMPERSONATION...





THAT WAS A
SIMPLE JOB TO UNCOUPLE THAT CAR.
AND TO GET RID OF
THE SHERIFF AND
HIS BOYS! NOW TO
GET THE GOLD!

























THEN WE MUST'VE THROWN



SAGA OF DANGEROUS DAN — HE RECEIVED A FAIR TRIAL AND WAS SENTENCED TO BE HANGED!



Just send your name and address on penny postcard. Your heautiful Key of C professional metal Harmonica and Hoppy's Complete Book of Instructions and 200 Songs will be mailed at once. On arrival, pay postman just \$1.69 plus C. O. D. and postage. Keep for 7 days on free trial offer. If you are not satisfied, return and your money will be refunded at once. Supplies are limited. Don't risk disappointment. Order now—TODAY!

HOPKINSON HARMONICA CO., Dept. 403
1665 MILWAUKEE AVE., CHICAGO 47, ILLINOIS
M-GLEASON

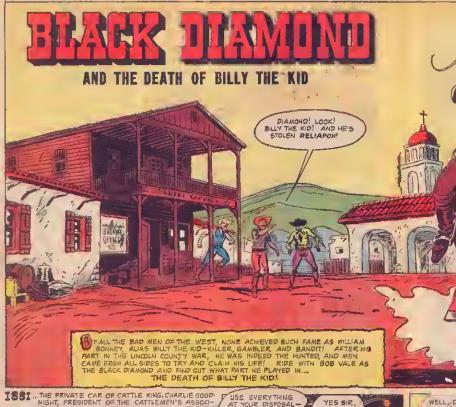
HOPKINSON HARMONICA CO., Dept. 403
1665 MILWAUKEE AVE., CHICAGO 47, ILLINOIS
Rush my genuine Key of C Professional Metal Harmonica and

Rush my genuine Key of C Professional Metal Harmonica and hoppy's Complete Book of Instructions along with the music and words of 200 songs to me at once. On arrival I will deposit just \$1.69 plus postage, If in 7 days I am not thrilled and delighted I may return purchase for my money back.

Nai	16	
Ada	ress	

ity____State____

























AND BUMPER! WHY















WELL.

WE MIGHT

AS WELL TURN

BACK- IT'S

IF ANY-

THING'S

HAPPENED











BE CAREFUL.

KID!

HA! THEY DON'T

DIGN'TT

BOTHER ME!









HE EES SO

BEAUTIFUL,

















AT THE SOUND OF DIAMOND'S WHISTLE, RELIAPON REARS AND GALLOPS TOWARD HIS MASTER!







































































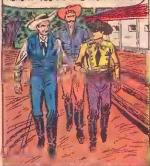


I WANT TO THANK
YOU FOR SHOUTING THE
WARNING, DIAMOND! THAT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN ME
LYING THERE!

THIS NIGHT WILL
SO DOWN IN HISTORY,
PAT - YOU'VE PUT AN
END TO A VICIOUS
MURDERER! THE SOUTHWEST WILL BE A BETTER



HE WASN'T FINICKY IN HIS KILLINGS!
HE WAS AS BLITHE TO SHOOT A MAN
IN THE BACK AS ANYWHERE ELSEHE HAD NO CODE OF GUNMAN
HONDR! YOU DID THE RIGHT THING!



HE WAS A PLEASANT KILLER-BILLY THE KID- AND THERE ILL BE PEOPLE WHO'LL THINK THE KID WAS TOO YOUNG AND GAY TO DIE IN THE DARK! YET HE GOT MERELY A TASTE OF WHAT



I SUPPOSE YOU'LL
BE HEADING HOME
NOW, DIAMOND!
AT ONCE!
GOOD LUCK, PAT!

LOOK, BUMPER, THERE'S
JUNCTION AHEAD! WE'RE
ALMOST HOME-BOY! A WEEK
IN THE SADDLE IS BNOUGH FOR
ANYONE! I CAN HARDLY
WAIT TO...

DIAMOND!

DIAMOND!





PAY LESS - GET THE BEST! SENSATIONAL SAVINGS! YOUR MONEY REFUNDED IF YOU CAN BUY THEM FOR LESS!

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351

Glove-Like

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Grained

Leatherette

Trim!

Specify style for YOUR car. TYPE A - Solid back for 4-door sedan... front or rear. Rear for coach or TYPE B-Divided

back, solid seet for front coupe or coach.

TYPE C - Individ-

ual seats or bucket type for divided back and seat.



SENT ON APPROVAL! SEND NO MONEY LUXURY SEAT COVER CO. Dept 30.

1025	Broad 5	ı., Ne	wark 2,	N. J.			
	nen: Kind				Covers	on	8

2nd Color... Color. Full set front & back covers \$8.95. My car is a 19

Make.....

☐ Front seat cover only, \$4.98. ☐ 2-door ☐ 4-door

□ Back seat cover only, \$4.98. ☐ Type A ☐ Type B ☐ Type C

 On delivery I'll pay postman purchase price plus few cents postage and C.O.D. charges. Name....

- Per 100 all 100 all

(PLEASE PRINT)

S.....purchase price enclosed. You pay postage.

DRAWN ESPECIALLY

NAKS IS DANGERUS AROUND HERE BECARFE DANGERUS

MANY BONES WERE FOUND ON THE GREAT PLAINS WITH MESSAGES WRITTEN ON THEM FOR THE PIONEERS TO COME ENTER!

SOME CONTAINED HELPFUL

ADVICE - WARNINGS OF THE

UNSEEN DANGERS-AND SOME

WERE JUST GREETINGS!

FOR "BLACK DIAMOND



IN 1859, THE STAGECOACH LINE RAN FROM MISSOURI TO CALIFORNIA ON A DAILY SCHEDULE. THE COMPANY WAS OWNED BY BEN HOLLADAY! HE OWNED 500 STAGECOACHES, SOO EXPRESS FREIGHT WAGONS, 5000 HORSES AND MULES AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF OXEN! THE HARNESS ALONE COST \$55,000 AND THE FEED BILL FOR THE ANIMALS WAS ESTIMATED TO BE ONE MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR! HIS OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE FIRST YEAR TOTALED \$2 425,000! AFTER 5 YEARS HE SOLD THE COMPANY TO WELLS FARGO & CO.!

ASCENSION' CHARLIE CARRIED A WHITE SHEET AROUND IN HIS POCKET BECAUSE HE KNEW THE WORLD WAS GOING TO END SOON AND THAT EVERYBODY IN HEAVEN WORE WHITE SHEETS!

NO VEHACLE DRAWN BY MOAR THAN I ANIMILE IS ALOUD TO CROS THIS BRIDG IN THE

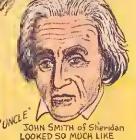
OPPOSIT DIREXION AT THE SAM TIME!

> SIGN ON A CALIFORNIA

BRIDGE -1849!

The state of the s WILD BILL WAS ATTACKED BY 10 DESPERADOS. WHO WERE OUT TO FINISH HIM OFF, BUT-WILD BILL KILLED THEM ALL, SINGLE -HANDED -HOWEVER HE HAD II BULLET WOUNDS AND 13 KNIFE WOUNDS IN HIS OWN BODY !

A SHORT TIME LATER HE WAS SHOT IN THE BACK AND DIED FROM **IT** /



ANDREW JACKSON, THAT WHEN THE PRESIDENT VISITED

THE TOWN - THE PEOPLE LAUGHED AT HIM AND JEERED - THEY THOUGHT IT WAS "UNCLE JOHN PLAYING A JOKE!

> TRIGGER FLANK DUG HIS OWN GRAYE!

FRANK DUG A GRAVE IN WHICH HE PLANNED TO BURY "SOUR" TOM HICKS (THAT IS, AFTER HE SHOT HIM) !

BUT TOM HEARD ABOUT IT - SHOT FRANK AND BURIED HIM IN THE GRAVE



will receive ABSOLUTELY FREE, the finest nost complete Collector's Outlit ever offered. Co sisting of a Large Scott Albam, and amazing collection of 1050 all different, carefully selected, beautiful, in heresting and valuable stemps—Almails, Triangles, Dia revesting and valuable stamps—Aumaid, Irangies, Dis-monds, High Values, etc., plut a Watermark. Detector, Magnifying Glass, Perforation Gauge, "Stamp Finder," Magnifying Glass, Perforation Gauge, "Stamp Finder," Kinges, and Stamp Tongs—the actual value of his Super Stamp Collector's Outfit is over \$25.00—but it is ALL yours absolutely FREE when you are a regular customer for our Foreign Approvals. Ma your request for our approvals NOW.

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ALL FREE with approval: Washington, All Market Market Control of the Control

C. H. MOORE



WOODEN BLANKETS WERE USED BY THE SALISH TRIBES ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER-THEY WERE MADE OF STRIPS OF CEDAR BARK WOVEN TOGETHER!



THE NURTHWEST INDIANS WORE RAINCOATS! THEY WERE A WATERPROOF PONCHO MADE FROM WOVEN STRIPS OF CEDAR BARK! THEY ALSO LIVED IN WATERPROOF HOUSES MADE OF STRAW!

STAMP PAGE by SiDNEY M. ELIAS

Georgia

O you know where Georgia is? No sir, this Georgia is not 1 18 including Commamoralization of SOUTH of South Carolina, but is 12 18 including Commamoralization of South Carolina, but is 12 18 including Commamoralization of South Carolina, but is 12 18 including Commamoralization of South Carolina (Carolina) of Russia sanger Stame Co. Out. D. MILWAUKEE 3. WIS in Europe. Its exact location is in the Caucasian Mountains, on the west of Azerbaijan.

The history of Georgia datas back long bafore Christ, for it has been astimated that people lived in this aree 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. Although temporarily conquered and overrun at different times by the Arabs, the Turks, the Mongols, and the Parsians, Georgia has lived through the ages and has been an independent kingdom for more than 2,000 years. It was in 1802, that Gaorgia lost its independence and was absorbad into the Russian Empire by Alexander the Great. This happened because at that time, Georgia was divided up into domains ruled over by princes. These princes often fought among themsolves and the Queen, who recently marriad a Russian prince, looked to Alexander to restore order. Alexender did restore order and annexed Georgia to Russia. In Octo-Positively Greatest FREE OFFER togethar with its sister republics of BARGAIN STAMP SERVICE, SANTA ANA, CALIF Armania and Azerbaijan formed the Trenscaucasian Federation of Soviet Asymptotes. The republics were later as 31.0 Foots STARF TO LECTION Soviet Socialistic Republics) aach with its own autonomous government.

The stamps of the Republic of Georgia like those of Azerbaijan, were printed on paper similar to that used in the making of this comic book. These stamps were crudaly printed and very few of them actually were used on letters. There is a story that just before Georgia joined the Transcaucasian Full Georgia joined the Transcaucasian Full Georgia joined the Transcaucasian Full Georgia joined the State of the Republic who were going to lose their jobs, State Blank CO. Cas 33.1. W. Farms, Brans 66, N.Y. fled the country with the place of the country with the country wi fled the country with the plates of these stamps and sold them to stamp dealers in Europe,



POSITIVELY GREATEST FREE OFFER

Rerr Ortenofiel (cight rided)
rlamp, gargeous Diamond,
glani Triragle, else manmelh and midgel rtamps,
loiel valur \$2.00, ALL
FREE to torsign appreval
boyers, Plus Free, Sretir
lateracijonal \$6.00 album
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PLYMOUTH - DEPT. A75 Bril. California

NICARAGUA

DIFFERENT STAMPS

SCOTT'S INTERNATIONAL ALBUM, VALUABLE Colosful Collection, Hinges.

Other Big Psemiums. Full perliculars with approvals.
Waite today. RAYMAX 127-C William St., New York, 7 N.Y

Thourands of beautiful slamps of only is each—why say more when you can get he best for less. Writs to day for opposedle, THRIFTY-STAMP SERVICE Hox 15 t 0

STAMP COLLECTING OUTFIT Paint of Work Davids STAMP, Pedage of Hilaeve Performed and Principles State of State of Hilaeve Performed State of Performance of Performanc

A lolal of 90 U.S. slampr FREE to sus lomers of our U.S. and Faraign approvals Sand 3c NOW for 15 of the abour plur par-liculars. TRYBORD STAMP CD. Drst. 76 145 Marrau Sirost Naw York 7, N. Y GERMANY

With Foreign Approvair MODERN STAMP SERVICE

ber, 1917, when the Russian Empire Latest Scoti's International \$6.00 Stemp Album-covfell. Georgia again declared its in-scriptive spaces, Scott's New Standard \$7.00 cate-dependance by forming the Repub-logues "Philately's Encyclopedia" - absolutely FREE to lic of Gaorgia. In 1922, Georgia applicants for foreign approvals becoming customers

> HUNGARY All Different Tr Arresti Guyere GOLDEN STAMP CO

Amoring Roosevall rommamaruliva rallection fraa Portuga 3s, Approvois, Herry—cas to a resistent

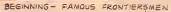
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THE DOUBLE SWITCHEROO

THE saloon doors swung open and crashed against the walls. Everyone in the room turned. "Hey! It's the Grady boys!" someone yelled. "Hi!"

Big Mike, owner of the Bulk Creek Bar, came forward to greet the two slim, cocky boys standing at the entrance. "Well, where've you been? I reckon it's heen six months since you've been hanging around this bar of mine."

"Good to see ya, Mike," replied Tim Grady.
"We've just come up from Texas—brought up a
herd of longhorns for the Double A Ranch. Hi,

Brodey! Howdy, Scratch!"

Conversation was lost in the deluge of greetings. The Grady boys were well liked in Fort Laramie. They were typical of the young, devilmay-care adventurers that swarmed through the town, except they were better natured and smarter than most.

Opportunists of the first water, Tim and Bud Grady had turned their hands—and their guns—to everything from bull whacking to ranching. And they'd been lucky, too. Each time they returned to Fort Laramie for supplies and what they derisively called "a couple of weeks of restin" up," they were well loaded with the profits of their most recent projects. But their luck didn't extend to the gaming tables. It never took more than two weeks to clean their pockets as empty as the first day they'd left home, five years before.

. Surrounded by their old friends, Tim and Bud Grady stepped up to the bar!"Drinks are on us!" Bud shouted to the bartender.

"Nix on that," replied Big Mike. "They're on the bouse. Now tell us what you've been up to, I didn't know the Double A was bringin' cattle up from Texas."

"Neither did they until this morning," laughed Tim. "We picked up the herd in San Antonio. The market's rock-bottom there 'cause they can't get the cattle shipped out. Then we hrought 'em up here and checked in at the Douhle A to see if they were interested. They were—and at about a 400% profit, too."

Big Mike shook his head in awe. "Man, oh, man, bow you two kids fall into easy money the way you do is more than I can figure out. Well, I guess you fall aut of it just as easy, too."

"Not this time," said Bud. "We've got plans, Mike-big plans. This cattle money can double and quadruple, just the way it did this time. Cattle is the biggest thing in the West."

"Except Leadville," Tim added flatly.

"Aw, Leadville's nothing hut a flash in the pan," sneered Bud. "A couple of guys will get the big strikes and ten thousand little guys will go broke trying to match 'em. Then there'll he a crash, and bingo-another ghost town! Anyway, as I was saying, if we plow our profits from this deal right back into Texas longhorns, we'll be rich men within a year or two. Not so had, buh?"

"Not half as good as this Leadville deal. Look bere!" Tim pulled a battered clipping out of his pocket. "Leadville Boom Surpasses All Others!" he read. "There's a fortune in that town—and I don't mean in ore, either. Leadville's going to be loaded with gold miners. And I don't care if they're lucky or not, they've got to have equipment. All we gotta do is load some wagons with all the hardware we can carry, and we'll resell that stuff for a fortune!"

Bud jerked his head at Tim impatiently. "You're nuts! There's two hundred miles of the toughest freightin' in the country between here and there, and with winter comin'..."

"Wbo's nuts? So we lose our herds in the winter blizzards between here and Texas? You're the one who's crazy!" snapped Tim.

"You low-down, ornery so-and-so!" Bud shouted. "You never have supplied any of the brains of this outht! What makes you think you're so smart, you paper-collared storekeeper!"

Bud turned back to Big Mike in disgust, hut Tim grabhed bim hy the shoulder and spun him around. "You pint-sized flea," Tim roared. "Who do you think you are? You're nothin' but a..."

Big Mike cut in, grabbed both boys and held them apart. "Now just a minute, you two," he said. "If you're fixin' to have a fight in here, you can just think twice. Both of you calm down. Talk this here big deal over for a couple of days. You're too good a team to let a ruckus like this break you up. C'mon, have a drink." Tim and Bud Grady did as Big Mike ordered, but they were still sullen, and you could see the fight was just beginning.

For the next two weeks, the arguments continued. Bud and Tim both stood firm. The one thing that they agreed on was not to throw their money away this time. All the enticements of Fort Laramie were lost on them. They could only think and talk of the riches of Leadville versus those of Texas. They sat at a corner table in Big Mike's bar, sometimes bickering and cursing, sometimes sitting in silent anger.

Finally Big Mike could stand it no longer. He joined them at the table. "Boys," he said, putting dnwn bis beer, "the time has come for you two to make up your minds. You both could be right. You both could be wrong. But only time and the winter can prove which is which. Why don't you divvy up your cash and each go your own gait. Then join up here next spring and see how you've gotten along. How about it?"

Tim and Bud thought for a minute, then both nodded silently. Bud banded the poke to Big Mike, who divided it into two equal piles, one for each. Bud got up slowly, shook hands with Big Mike and said slowly. "Well, I reckon I'll be moving out in the morning. See ya in the Spring. So long." And without a word to Tim or a backward glance, he strode from the saloon.

Tim Grady sat for a minute longer with Big Mike. "It's the first time we've been apart, Mike, but I guess it's just as well. I better get busy and see what kind of wagons and supplies I can get ahold of, Magasky wants to sell out his bardware stock, so I might as well get my bid in there. Tbanks, Mike. I'll see ya before I leave town."

The whole town watched with interest as the Grady boys made their preparations, and there wasn't a man in town who didn't have strong feelings as to which one was on the right bent.

The following morning, Bud was ready to leave. He'd asked the Laramie bank to transfer bis funds to San Antonio, his saddle bags were packed, his horse was waiting. Just before he left the hotel, he looked out the window to the dust-ridden main street below. There, leading a train of horses and empty freight wagons, was Tim, bis brother. Silently he watched him, his expression inscrutable. Then, suddenly, he threw his saddle bags back on the bed and left the room,

'Two hours later, be entered Big Mike's saloon,
''Have you seen Tim around, Mike?'' be asked,
"He basn't left yet, has be?"

"No," Mike replied, "be's around town looking for you, as a matter of fact. 1 think he bas something to tell ya."

"That goes for me, too." Bud started toward the door, "I-wait, here he comes." Tim Grady swung through the door, stopped, hesitantly, when he saw Bud.

"Bud," be stammered, "I got to figgerin', I..."

Bud interrupted quickly. "Wait till you see what I've got for you. I-1 reckon it's sort of silly to head for Texas this late in the year. I guess I'll string along with you."

· "Wha . . . !" Tim began.

Tim's exclamation was interrupted again. "Yeh," Bud continued, "I put my part of the poke into some more supplies for Leadville. Got a good bargain, too. All of Magasky's old hardware stock."

Tim looked at his brother aghast. "Well, I'll be-you bought what?" He burst into laughter, grabbed Bud by the arm and clapped him on the back. "Why, you consarned, knuckle-beaded brother of mine! I should known blood was thicker than money, You crazy galoot!"

Bud stepped back, a bit miffed at this bilarious reception of his brotherly gesture. "What's so crazy about..."

"Just this, you darned rascal," continued Tim, between bursts of laughter. "I bought my wagons last night, all right, then went over to close the deal with Magasky this morning. He told me he'd found a huyer who'd give him a better price! I hit the ceiling, but there wasn't much I could do about it. So you're that buyer! How much did he get from you?"

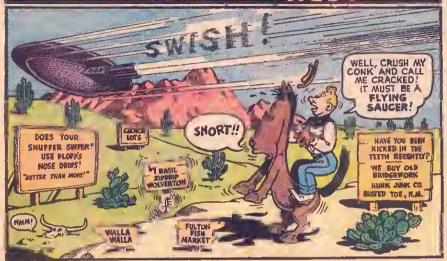
"\$5,400!" Bud replied. "Let's go back there and pick up the stuff, We'd better start moving. Where are your wagons?"

"That's-that's just it!" whooped Tim. "When I lost out on the hardware deal-ha! ha!-hee!—I resold the wagons, took the money and told the bank to transfer it to San Antonio. I decided to string along with you!"

Bud stared incredulously, then started laughing, too. The two rolled against the har, their sides aching with laughter. Big Mike, smiling broadly, put a couple of drinks in front of them. "Okay, boys," be said, "now that one of you has sent his money to Texas and the other has his tied up in hardware he can't transport, how about settling down for some good brotherly fun and forgetting these millinn-dollar deals?"

BINGBANG BUSTER

AND HIS HORSE HEDY



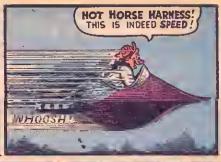














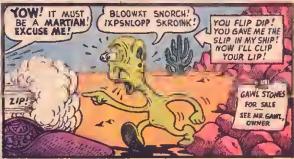




























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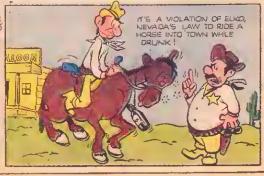
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